

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FSE-00 ABF-01 OPR-02 A-01 PER-03 /017 W
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P R 120730Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8734

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DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5845

BANGKOK FOR FADPC, USDA FOR FAS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSC, AS

SUBJ: LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN - AUSTRALIA

REF: CANBERRA 5211

1. THE FULL BENCH OF THE CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION
COMMISSION TODAY HANDED DOWN ITS DECISION IN THE NATIONAL
WAGE INDEXATION CASE. THE COMMISSION'S DECISION: "WE HAVE
DECIDED THAT ONCE AGAIN THE INCREASE IN THE C.P.I. OF

2.5 PCT SHOULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED TO EVERYONE. WE HAVE TAKEN
INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT THE MAY DECISION Affected REL-
ATIVITIES FOR THOSE ABOVE \$A125 PER WEEK (A\$6521 PER
ANNUm) AND WE CONSIDER A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO BE APPRO-
PRIATE ON THIS OCCASION. ACCORDINGLY WE WILL APPLY THE 2.5
PCT TO THE LOWEST WAGE IN THE METAL INDUSTRY AWARD FOR
MELBOURNE, NAMELY A\$98 PER WEEK AND THE RESULTING A\$2.50
(A\$130 PER ANNUm) WILL BE PAYABLE TO THOSE RECEIVING UP
TO AND INCLUDING A\$166 PER WEEK (A\$8660 PER ANNUm). FOR THOSE
ABOVE THAT AMOUNT THE INCREASE WILL BE 1.5 PCT. THIS WILL
MEAN THAT THOSE WHOSE AWARD RATES ARE BETWEEN A\$98 AND
A\$166 PER WEEK WILL RECEIVE AMOUNTS RANGING FROM 2.5 TO 1.5

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PER CENT AND THOSE ABOVE A\$166 PER WEEK WILL RECEIVE 1.5

PERCENT. THIS AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY TWICE THE COST OF THE FIGURE PREFERRED BY THE (GAO) BUT IN OUR VIEW ANY AMOUNT LESS THAN WE HAVE AWARDED WOULD HAVE PUT AT RISK THE INDEXATION PACKAGE AND ANY MORE WOULD BE ECONOMICALLY UNWISE".

2. THIS DECISION AFFECTS OVER 6 MILLION WORKERS IN AUSTRALIA AND WILL OPERATE FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST PAY PERIOD TO COMMENCE ON OR AFTER 15TH AUGUST 1976.

3. EMBSSY REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT THIS INCREASE FOR ITS FSLE'S EFFECTIVE AUGUST 15, 1976. (A COPY OF THE COMMISSION'S NATIONAL WAGE CASE HEARING WILL BE AIRPOUCHED.)
HARGROVE

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